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without its value for us. The moment that we as a nation begin to act on the belief that we should be guided by purely intellectual considerations, putting aside as weak and visionary emotion and sentiment, we shall set our feet on the path that leads to some deed of enduring infamy."—From *Law Notes*, March, 1918.

Narcotic Addiction Serious Problem for the Government.—I do not hesitate to make the unequivocal and positive statement that the gigantic narcotic drug evil is a dangerous menace to human civilization, greater than alcoholism, and is sapping at the very lives and welfare of our American citizens, for this fact has been demonstrated clearly to me for many years as foreman of grand jurors, United States of America, southern district of New York, and likewise as foreman of the New York County grand jury.

In both of those capacities I have investigated an army of witnesses and defendants suffering from narcotic addiction, and as foreman of the federal grand jurors I drafted resolutions which were adopted and filed in the United States District Court by order of the justice presiding at that term.

These resolutions call upon the United States attorney for the southern district of New York to take up with the Department of Justice the subject so as to cause a bill to be prepared for submission to Congress seeking the enactment of broad and suitable statutes that will eliminate this evil in so far as this can be done by statutory enactment, regulating and controlling the supply of narcotics from its source and in its distribution.

The resolutions recite that the entire output of the production and manufacture of opiates by all manufacturing and pharmaceutical chemists and all other manufacturers of products of opium or coca leaves, their salts, their derivatives or preparations, etc., shall be in absolute and direct control of the United States Government, and that chemists and internal revenue officers shall be assigned to all these plants throughout the United States, its territories and possessions; that the output of the manufactured product should be shipped to various government warehouses, zones being established therefor throughout the United States; that the government officially shall control the price and the quantities of narcotic drugs shipped to the various wholesale druggists, jobbers, dealers, retailers and pharmacists; that all these and all manufacturing plants shall be bonded and licensed, and that the government shall supervise and control exclusively all import and export shipments.

It has been shocking to hear these unfortunate and suffering addicts testify as to the ease with which they purchased opium, morphia, heroin and cocaine from persons dealing, peddling or otherwise trafficking in these drugs upon the streets or in places known to them and their customers and slaves. This is a condition which obtains at the present time. This traffic is carried on by some of our worst criminals and has associated with it abominable activity in the recruiting of the youth of our city as future customers.

It was also shocking to hear how certain physicians unscrupulously and illegally engage in the supply and sale of these narcotic drugs, and how they promiscuously write prescriptions for these narcotic addicts under guise of correctional medical treatment and promised medical cure, which prescriptions the addicts take to certain druggists for compounding at fabulous prices.

I have found that between the criminal traffic and street peddling and the physicians of the type I have described an addict with the necessary funds can

purchase all the narcotic drugs he wants, and it is exceedingly easy for those who know how to go about getting them. I have officially investigated the matter and found that the illegitimate supply is greater than ever known in the history of the underworld.

It was pathetic to listen to some witnesses, both men and women, who, in good faith and in hope of a radical cure, had gone to certain physicians and were given spurious and worthless cures and treatments. These physicians were really exploiting the helpless narcotic addicts, commercializing their terrible misery without giving them any relief.

I caused the indictment of several of these physicians and dishonest druggists and they are serving their sentences.

My personal experience for many years as foreman of the United States grand jury, and also previously as an associate member of that body, has convinced me that the United States Public Health Service at Washington must be a factor in any law that is to be enacted for safeguarding the future lives of the addicts. I suggested to the Department of Justice that the United States Public Health Service should take steps to initiate an exhaustive study and investigation of the prevailing universal condition of narcotic drug addiction, and the present methods and manners of treating this calamity, and provide intelligent and humane care for the handling of the victims and encourage lay and medical education concerning narcotic drug addiction.

Most important would be an official and exhaustive medical investigation by the combined powers of the Public Health and Internal Revenue Services of all so-called "treatments" and "cures," their intrinsic therapeutic value to be absolutely established and determined upon their scientific merits and not upon what those associated with them advertise.

As foreman I discussed officially with several of the United States District Court justices the control of these violations of narcotic drug laws. I said we must proceed simultaneously on two lines: First, to control illegal and criminal distribution, whether the illegitimate distribution is through the underworld street peddler or through the medium of dishonest members of the medical and pharmaceutical professions; second, for the sake of compassion and the practical handling of the problem of disease and sickness in the addict, to obtain humane and skillful medical care and treatment by honest physicians, reliable institutions or other reputable means.

I have made a study of narcotic drug addiction for many years past by visiting and consulting with the greatest medical authorities and visiting their clinics in Jena, Heidelberg, Freiburg, Munich, Vienna, Berlin, Paris, London and in this country. I also have consulted the greatest pharmaceutical and chemical authorities and manufacturers in Germany and England.

I am therefore in a position to interpret evidence adduced before me as foreman of the United States grand jury and to express my convictions on the strength of my own research work, reinforced with the practical research of others. My own life work and training and practical experience has been that of chemical engineering and experimentation, especially in the lines of organic chemical combustion products.

It has been established beyond a doubt that narcotic addiction is a disease, but many physicians do not understand the proper treatment of such patients. That is a well known fact. The quicker they realize it and exercise their brains

in the final determination of what is the exact pathology of this disease and what are the salient principles upon which clinical treatment can be practically and in genuine faith worked out, the quicker will the narcotic problem be under control.

They should master the pathology, clinical symptoms and therapeutics of addiction and have a finer understanding and conception of physiological and pharmaceutical chemistry, and when prescribing opium or morphine, or any of its alkaloids, derivatives or preparations, be able to appreciate how they act on the human system and what they are capable of doing.

We have now reached a certain stage in this gigantic problem and are halted by lack of medical information. Physicians must try to identify and isolate whatever material in the body causes the frightful suffering of the disease. English, Continental and American research authorities whom I consulted characterized it as a "phenomenon" in the human system. Alkaloidal and physiological chemistry, combined with careful and serious clinical study, will be the dominant factor that will ultimately determine the character of this phenomenon and its results.

It is very apparent that there seems to be a lack of sufficient number of medical authorities who have been trained so that they are competent to investigate this problem.

At the request of Senator George H. Whitney, chairman of the Joint Legislative Committee of New York State now investigating the matter of narcotic drug addition, I called attention to the very serious situation our boys in the American army would be forced to meet in the necessary administration of opiates at the front. It has been determined that a considerable proportion of those already wounded on the battle fields have had this condition unavoidably developed in them. We shall not be fulfilling our national duty to them if our activity and that of our scientific professions is not directed toward saving them now from narcotic slaughter, which is slow, agonizing torture and never ending misery of mind and body, compared with which a heroic death from the fire of shrapnel on the battlefields is infinitely more merciful, and we must find out the best way to help and save them.

We are awakening to the fact that ignorance has been the real cause of our narcotic drug problem. All the evidence or real value now coming out in the Whitney joint legislative committee investigations from people who are in a position to speak with real disinterested authority is showing to the world that we have handled the narcotic addicts like people of low tastes, weak wills, criminal and other tendencies, and that we have thought them to be such, while in reality these addicts have been persons sick and suffering great bodily torment, and that what they need most is medical and scientific consideration. We cannot any longer delude ourselves as to what drug addiction really is; camouflage of obsolete ideas is as foolish and dangerous in medical treatment as it is now shown to be in the general methods of procedure we have in the past adopted toward the narcotic addict.

New York City.

ALBERT J. WEBER.

COURTS—LAWS

Report of Committee on Vagrancy to the Ohio Branch Council of National Defence.—In conformity with your request of June 22, 1917, we herewith submit our report and recommendation for a plan whereby the service